

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT**  
**2002-2003**

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Fauquier County Disability Services Board  
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FAUQUIER COUNTY  
DISABILITY SERVICES BOARD  
NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

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ATTACHMENTS

- Exhibit A.....DSB Membership Roster
- Exhibit B.....Service Providers Interviews  
& Special Education Overview
- Exhibit C.....DSB Survey Instrument
- Exhibit D.....Survey Results Statistics

FAUQUIER COUNTY  
DISABILITY SERVICES BOARD  
2003 NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

A. Introduction

The Fauquier County Disability Services Board (DSB) serves the jurisdiction of Fauquier County, Virginia. There are three incorporated towns within the County: Warrenton (the County seat), Remington and The Plains. Fauquier County is home to 55,139\* people. The County is mostly rural and is one of the largest in land area in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The majority of Fauquier County's workforce commutes out of the County for employment due to the availability of quality employment in the nearby Northern Virginia and District of Columbia metropolitan areas.

The Fauquier County DSB was established in compliance with Section 51.5-47 of the Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended, in April of 1993 by Resolution of the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors allocates annual funding to the DSB.

Currently there are eight members serving on the DSB: three consumers, three business members and two local government officials (see Exhibit A, DSB Membership Roster). Consumer and business members are appointed to three-year terms and the local government officials serve for one year. The local government officials are a member of the Board of Supervisors and the Director of the public schools' Department of Special Education.

B. Purpose

The purpose of the Needs Assessment Report is multi-faceted. It provides information to State and local government officials, as well as to a variety of local agencies and service providers regarding the needs of people with disabilities that live in Fauquier County. The document becomes the reference tool for these organizations, as well as for the DSB when considering Rehabilitative Services Incentive Fund (RSIF) grant projects and recipients based on the overall needs of the community. The report provides comparison information from previous years and is available to assist other localities in helping to determine ongoing and new areas of need.

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\*US Census Bureau 2000 Summary File

### C. Data Collection

Information was collected for this Needs Assessment Report from a variety of sources including the *Community Services Board Elder Needs Assessment, November 2002*, the US Census Bureau web page, the Assisted Living Federation of America (ALFA) web page, the Virginia Department of Social Services, Interviews With Local Service Providers and an Overview of Special Education (see Exhibit B). A self-survey instrument was developed by a special subcommittee of the DSB, consisting of DSB members, County employees from the Library, Information Resources and Support Services Departments, as well as a member of the local center for independent living that serves the citizens of Fauquier County (see Exhibit C). This survey was distributed as follows:

- Local hospital
- Local nursing homes (3)
- Public Library (3 branches)
- DSB web site
- Local newspapers – press releases (2 each)
- Local radio stations (public service announcements)
- The Workplace & Didlake (businesses that assist people with disabilities become employed)
- The Plains Pharmacy (local distributor of Assistive Tech devices)
- County Health Department
- County Dept. of Parks and Recreation
- County Cooperative Extension Office
- County Public Schools

The survey was developed to incorporate the twelve core areas of service need as identified by the State and to provide demographic information. Completed surveys were submitted to the DSB staff office for analysis. The majority of these surveys were submitted by residents of elderly congregate living facilities making the data in the report more reflective of the needs of the elderly.

#### D. Survey Analysis

Based on information in the 1999 Fauquier County Needs Assessment Report, the four priority areas of need were 1) transportation, 2) assistive technology, 3) employment services, and 4) education/training. Again, the number of surveys received from the elderly community likely influence the change in the 3rd and 4th priority need for the current report. It should be noted however, that the remainder of core service areas (with the exception of Counseling and Communication) scored closely and may indicate that all of these needs should be weighted similarly.

The information for the 2003 Report was tabulated and analyzed from the various information blocks contained in the survey instrument (Exhibit C). In summary, the majority of respondents resides in the central to northern area of Fauquier County and have high school or more advanced education. The majority of respondents are residents of a nursing home, thus the high number of “retired” statistics. Mobility was the overwhelming type of disability reported. Most of the respondents require and use personal assistants, but do not use a service animal. See Exhibit D for a complete list of survey statistics. The method of tabulation gives equal weight to the respondents’ top five areas of stated need.

##### 1999 Needs Assessment

Birth – 18 years	27%
18—40 years	33%
40—60 years	27%
Over 60 years	13%

##### 2003 Needs Assessment

Birth – 18 years	less than 2%
18—40 years	27%
40—60 years	17%
Over 60 years	54%

##### Ranking of 12 categories:

1. Assistive Technology
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Personal Assistance
5. Family Support
6. Medical/Therapeutic
7. Independent Living Skills
8. Case Management
9. Education
10. Employment
11. Counseling
12. Communication

#### E. Summary of Results

The results of the current DSB survey identify four priority areas of need, those being Assistive Technology, Transportation, Housing and Personal Assistance. In review of the 1999 Needs Assessment Report, it should be noted that Assistive Technology and Transportation remain the top two priorities, but that Education and Employment have been replaced by Housing and Personal Assistance. As previously noted in this report, the majority of the respondents to the survey are over 60 years of age and reside in nursing homes and/or assisted living facilities and the survey results reflect their priorities. People in this age group have less need of Education or Employment opportunities but do require Housing and Personal Assistance. According to the 2000 US Census 35.8% of Fauquier County citizens over the age of 65 have a disability.

The overwhelming top priority according to the survey results is for **Assistive Technology**. The majority of the respondents indicated mobility to be the nature of their disability, and that they used or required wheelchairs, walkers and other adaptive equipment.

The need for appropriate public and/or private **Transportation** remains a top priority for residents of Fauquier County with physical and/or sensory disabilities. Progress has been made in the County seat of Warrenton with continued service of Virginia Regional Transit. In a telephone interview with Virginia Regional Transit's local manager, the following route and transportation information was collected:

Circuit Rider – fixed route shuttle in Warrenton, 7:30 AM – 5:45 PM Mon-Fri; 9:30 AM – 5:45 PM Sat; no Sun; public transportation; small fee

Rappahannock Express – fixed route shuttle to and from Warrenton from Rappahannock County, 9:15 AM to 5:46 PM, Mon-Fri; special pick-ups on Wednesdays; small fee

On Demand Response Bus – 15 passenger bus owned by Fauquier County & operated by VA Regional Transit; scheduled appointments only, 24 hr advance notice; \$1 per ride; 8:30 AM—5:00 PM, Mon-Fri

The rural nature and size of Fauquier County makes transportation services to all citizens a difficult problem to solve. Virginia Regional Transit said that there are no plans for additional services at this time.

People with disabilities have more trouble finding suitable and accessible **Housing**. As previously noted, the county is very large and mostly rural. Housing is primarily single family residential in and near the areas surrounding Warrenton, Remington, Marshall, Bealeton, New Baltimore and The Plains. There are several private nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the county and most survey respondents are residents of one in Marshall. A telephone survey of nursing homes located in the county identified

approximately 340 long-term residents. Other housing options include two facilities located in Warrenton that are apartment complexes for elderly and handicapped residents. These facilities are only for moderate to low-income people.

Both facilities offer no personal care, and residents must be able to live independently. According to the *Elder Needs Assessment* conducted in 2000 by VaTech on behalf of agencies in the Planning District, demographic information revealed that 24% of respondents lived alone, 15.8% lived on farms, 36% live in small towns, and 20% have lived in the county less than 10 years. This trend is reflective of Fauquier County, as well as the entire Planning District.

**Personal assistance** was a close fourth to housing as a major need in Fauquier County. It is concluded that the same people who listed housing as a top priority also require personal assistance in their daily living. As noted before, the age and living circumstances of most of the respondents to the survey have been reflected in the results. According to the *Assisted Living Federation of America (ALFA)*, information based on US Census figures, about 6.5 million older people need assistance with daily activities, and this number is expected to double by the year 2020. Also, there remains a continued increase in the number of older people who live alone. According to the aforementioned *Elder Needs Assessment*, the 60+ age range is the fastest growing segment of the population, with the greatest rate of growth among persons over 85 years old. More trends included in this report say 27% of persons over 60 years of age report the need for assistance with “activities of daily living”, ranging from personal care such as bathing, to shopping, cooking, transportation and paying bills. Citizens of Fauquier County have several options for personal assistance, including:

- Department of Social Services, which responds to the needs of seniors age 60 and over, adults with disabilities over the age of 18 and other adults with specific needs. DSS also offers assistance to elder adults who require the services of adult care residences and adults with disabilities who need help with care, transportation and nutrition services. In a telephone interview with Fauquier County DSS, other services include adult protective services, advocacy, and limited case management. If funds are available, some companion care may be possible as well as specialized employment support in collaboration with DRS and local service providers.
- Home Health Providers, which are mostly private companies, offer diverse personal care – one provider interviewed offered complete personal care services including bathing, laundry, housekeeping and meal preparation, as well as private duty skilled nursing, physical and occupational therapy. This company also offered companion care services. The other company surveyed by telephone had very limited services that included in-home, skilled intermittent nursing care, physical and occupational therapists and simple home health aides that assist with bathing and limited personal care. No companion care or private duty staff is offered.
- Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, located in Fauquier County, offer range of care and personal assistance. Companion care services are not generally available and must be provided privately.

- Support from Family, Friends, is an important consideration in rural communities like Fauquier County. According to statistics in the *Elder Needs Assessment* (cited above), most of the respondents to their survey (43%) reported having contact with family members or friends on a daily basis to assist with activities of daily living.

#### F. Implications for DSB Action

The DSB intends to establish a public awareness committee to assist citizens and local government in identifying and utilizing service providers and resources available in Fauquier County.

#### G. Implications for State-Level Action

DSB concludes that the Commonwealth continue to expand and support programs in the four identified core areas of **Assistive Technology, Transportation, Housing and Personal Assistance**.

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